

NIH Partnership Council Meeting

Attendees: Steve Benowitz, Richard Laubach, Charles Palmer, Maria Gorrasi, Roz Burns, Mildred Clark, Steve Ficea, Walter Jones, Alberta Bourn,

Old Business: Review of Minutes from last Partnership Meeting and discussion of HHS Partnership Council recommendations regarding 7106 (b)(1) issue.

The minutes were adopted by the NIH Partnership Council.

Discussion ensued regarding bargaining over 7106 (b)(1) issues - numbers, types and grades under Title 5. It was stated that management reserves the right to negotiate these issues and the methods used to conduct the work. However, a proposal regarding negotiating (b)(1) issues were discussed as follows: The parties should be able to negotiate (b)(1) issues but not be taken to binding arbitration unless mutually agreed by all parties. However, one party could go to non-binding arbitration but these advisory decisions would then have to be reviewed by all concerned parties. If the Op Div. Could not resolve the particular issue, then either party could get the issue raised at the HHS Partnership Council. It was stated that the procedure for resolution at the HHS level was still not finalized. One member stated that it was possible for local issues to be 7106 (b)(1) issues as well. Mr. Benowitz stated that he will make available for distribution materials answering questions related to 7106 (b)(1) related topics. Maria Gorrasi will be disseminating this to the members of the NIH Partnership Council. Examples of (b)(1) issues were discussed such as setting up another shift, or negotiating percentage of employees that were temporary versus permanent.

Issue Pending: The HHS Partnership Council recommendations regarding bargaining over 7106 (b)(1) were submitted to the Secretary and a memo should be sent to the operating heads regarding negotiating 7106 (b)(1) issues probably within the next two weeks. It was stated that the HHS Secretary's memo will assist in better accomplishing the agency's mission and improve the quality of work life for employees. Also, NIH criteria concerning 7106 (b)(1) could evolve from the secretary's directive.

Old Business: Update on Partnership Projects and Work Plan

Mr. David Ramos presented the Partnership Council with a draft from his subcommittee regarding the development of an NIH Labor Management

Partnership Self-Assessment Survey. The survey's format was briefly reviewed and one member asked if people outside the council would also use this as an evaluation tool. Would this assessment survey be for everyone to use or just a certain segment of employees? How do outsiders/insiders view the NIH Partnership Council? It was stated that initially this survey could be used by all NIH employees who were covered by a bargaining unit and their respective managers. One member mentioned that a memo was given by the President stating that a report evaluating Partnership Activities will be done thru the OMB.

Issue Pending: The Partnership Council will review this draft assessment survey and send comments by the 25th of Jan. to Maria Gorrasi for group discussion at the next Partnership Council Meeting. Other subcommittees to meet and report back to the Partnership Council regarding progress on their work projects.

Old Business: Employee Parking and use of the NIH Bulletin Boards

Some members expressed concern about parking at the NIH. One member inquired about the police giving out "warning tickets" regarding parking violations. Discussion also ensued regarding notifying employees when their "hanger permit" was about to expire. It was suggested that one of the NIH publications could remind employees when renewal stickers are to be reissued. Another suggestion was given that notices for reissuing a parking permit be placed in the employee's mailbox. One member stated there an approx. 30% increase in the number of warning tickets given to employees. It was also mentioned that no agency gave administrative leave for "fighting a parking ticket" if the employee prevailed.

A discussion regarding bulletin board use was mentioned by a member of the council. One member mentioned that an inquiry should be made regarding the procedure for placing items on bulletin boards and the length of time they remain posted.

Issues Pending: Mr. Tom Hayden will speak at the next Partnership Council Meeting regarding parking issues. The procedures used for placing items on the NIH bulletin boards will be explored and discussed at the next Partnership Meeting.

Old Business: NIEHS Membership on the Partnership Council

Ms. Little inquired about resuming membership on the NIH Partnership Council. Consensus by the group was that if both union and management wanted to attend the meetings/teleconferencing, the members could amend the charter to include them.

Issue Resolved: Mr. Benowitz will call Ms. Little and get back to the council regarding this matter.